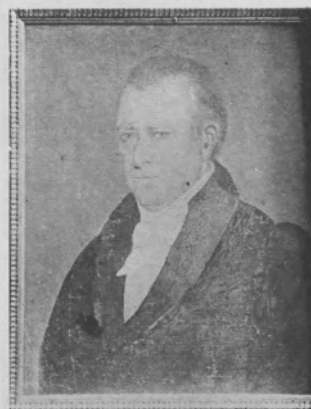


preceding year, to build a brick chapel to replace the shabby old wooden one. The result of this decision now stands on the campus as the "Philosophical Hall." The lower floor of the building was used as a chapel, while the second story contained the library and the natural philosophy apparatus, the high quality of which was the continual boast of the University authorities. A large part of the \$4,000 appropriated a year earlier to the purchase of a library also diverted toward defraying the costs of this building. In the summer of 1818, some one, probably a student, wrote from Athens: "The library now contains more volumes of the most approved historians, poets, etc., than will be read by any student whilst in college." In December, 1820, the Trustees reported that the number of volumes did not exceed one thousand. The size of the library was not much increased before the time of its destruction when the New College was burned in 1830. I can now find no books in the present library that I have reason to believe was owned by the University prior to 1830.

Nearly all the lands of the University were sold soon after the act of 1815, which authorized their disposal, but the sales were on credit according to the customs of the time, and the money was hard to collect. The legislature provided, in 1816, for all the notes turned in by the Trustees of the University the State Treasurer should advance two-thirds of their face value toward the purchase of stock in the Bank of the State of Georgia then just established. \$130,000 in notes was turned in and \$100,000 worth of stock was purchased. For several years this yielded large dividends, so there was no complaint of lack of funds in Franklin College.

There being no president, it was judged best to have no session of the University in the fall of 1818. In November, Reverend Ebenezer Porter was nominated as President by the Trustees, but he declined, although the salary was increased to \$2,500. In March, 1819, the Reverend Moses Waddel, of South Carolina, was appointed by the Trustees President *pro tempore*, and was nominated by them to the presidency, to which he was elected by the Senatus in the autumn of the same year. Dr. Waddel was already a famous man when he accepted the presidency of the University; it is a matter of surprise that he had not been elected long before. John C. Calhoun and William H. Crawford had both been educated by him at his widely known school at Wilmington, S. C., and both remained his enthusiastic friends throughout his life. Crawford always took great interest in Franklin College, and was probably responsible for Waddel being made President.

"At the time of Dr. Waddel's arrival in Athens the number of students in college amounted to eight. . . . Since the vacation in June, the number has gradually increased to twenty-five.

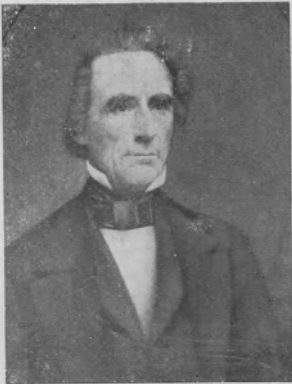


REV. MOSES WADDEL.

. . . The members in the grammar school amount to forty-five." A year later there were fifty students in college and sixty-six in the grammar school. Dr. Waddel changed the curriculum somewhat, but did not materially raise it. The entrance requirements for the Freshman Class in the University's early history were quite as stiff as ours of to-day, as regards the ancient languages. In mathematics, arithmetic was required as far as proportion, and in English, a knowledge of grammar and spelling.

But Dr. Waddel did more than reorganize the routine of the University; he popularized the institution in the State, and drew to it that public favor which was shown it in the years immediately following. Since the odium which President Meigs had brought upon himself and the institution, Franklin College had never had the confidence of the people of Georgia. At a banquet in Athens July 4, 1810, a toast was given "The University of Georgia, struggling

against prejudice and illiberality—may its usefulness yet defeat the views of malignity." In 1819, when James Monroe, then President of the United States, visited Athens and toasted the institution, another speaker responded to the toast: "The University of Georgia, about to renew its operations under the direction of an able manager, and furnished, by the liberality of the legislature, with the most ample resources, it now only wants the confidence of the public and the affections of the people." Dr. Waddel succeeded in cultivating the good will of the populace of the State, being greatly assisted by the Reverend Alonzo Church, professor of mathematics and afterwards President of the University for thirty years. The attendance, from eight in the spring of 1819, twenty-five in the fall of that year, and fifty in the next, reached, in 1821, the number of ninety-nine, and in 1822 one hundred and twenty students were in attendance, an enrollment which was not materially excelled for



REV. ALONZO CHURCH.

more than forty years. The legislature of 1821 guaranteed an income to the College of \$8,000, an act which was brought about by the decline in the dividends of the bank stock. It furthermore appropriated the sum of \$15,000, and authorized the Trustees to collect and retain \$10,000, which, with the amount donated, was to be applied to buildings. Most of this money was put into the New College, which really cost nearly \$30,000.

In the autumn of 1822 then, when the building whose corner-stone has caught our eye was rapidly nearing completion, the University was possessed of two large and commodious dormitories, a chapel and several other buildings upon the campus; it had a president, two professors and three tutors as its faculty, while its student body was composed of twenty seniors,

seventeen Juniors, forty-two Sophomores, forty-one Freshmen; and its income, including tuition money, amounted to about \$12,000 per annum.

This was the state of our University nearly eighty years ago. Its prospects then were as flattering as those of almost any college in the United States. Why, then, did the institution remain at a standstill for the next forty years, and why has it advanced so little in the period of the same length just ended? The reasons are complex, but I know of no answer that can be made creditably to the State of Georgia. It remains for us of the coming generation to wipe this stain from Georgia's scutcheon. Our State is the largest east of the Mississippi, and, with the exception of Texas, the strongest of those south of Mason and Dixon's line. Georgia is well able to devote three or four hundred thousand dollars annually to higher education, and the major part of this should be put at the disposal of the University. The impetus to education must extend from above downward; from the State University to the public schools of the State. In order to lessen the proportion of illiterates in her population, she must begin by increasing the proportion of those who have the higher learning. The material progress of the State depends upon the intelligence of its citizens, which of course is to be increased by education. Very evident then is the still magnificent opportunity of the University of Georgia, but quite as evident is the tremendous responsibility of its task.

With a history eminently honorable to itself, if not entirely so to the State, with a reputation spreading across the continent, with little competition at home that need be effective, "Georgia's literary institution" should have a future glorious and brilliant. Let the students of the University past and present, put their shoulders to the wheel, do their duty of love to their Alma Mater, and then may the thousands of throats of future generations of matriculates join with pride and veneration in our chorus, "Glory, glory, to old Georgia."

But the waiting need not be long for the improvement to be felt. Throughout the past ten years there has been a distinct upward tendency felt by the University in all directions. It is my belief that this improvement will continue and increase in the immediate future.

ULRICH BONNELL PHILLIPS.



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